

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. By this amendment, the specification and claim 4 are amended. No new matter is added. Support for this amendment is found in the specification at page 14, line 22 through page 15, line 21.

I. Status of Claims

The Office Action indicates that claims 1-11 are pending and subject to a Restriction Requirement. However, claims 1-18 are pending herein. Although the original application included 11 claims, a Preliminary Amendment was filed with the application that amended multiple dependencies in the claims and added new claims 12-18. Entry and consideration of the Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

II. Restriction

In reply to the September 27, 2005 Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-7, with traverse. In addition, it is believed that claims 12-16 should also be grouped with Group I, as these claims depend from Group I.

The Restriction Requirement is traversed because it is believe to be improper. In particular, the claims of Group II all depend from claims that are indicated to belong to Group II, and thus should be grouped with the claims of Group I.

Furthermore, the claims of Group II all depend from product claims of Group I, and must be rejoined upon allowance of the product claims. Where product and process claims are presented in the same application, Applicant may be called upon under 35 U.S.C. §121 to elect claims to either the product or process. MPEP §821.04. However, in the case of an elected product claim, rejoinder will be permitted when a product claim is found allowable and the withdrawn process claim depends from or otherwise includes all the limitations of an allowed product claim. Id.

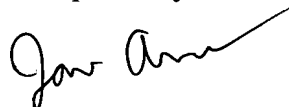
In the present application, the method claims of Group II depend from and thus include all of the limitations of the product of Group I. Since the method claims of Group II include the limitations of the product claims of Group I, the method claims must be rejoined with the product claims once the product claims are allowed. Thus, to streamline prosecution and avoid delay, the Restriction Requirement should be withdrawn to permit concurrent examination of all of the pending claims.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement.

III. Conclusion

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 27, 2005

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